Christopher House has been helping children and families succeed for more than 100 years. Today, Christopher House’s family of schools prepares at-risk children and their families for success in school, the workplace, and life.

Our continuum of high-quality schools serves children from birth through high school, and includes programs that help parents create stable, self-sufficient families. Working in partnership with parents, we provide a rich academic environment that also builds qualities that make the difference later in life: self-confidence, social skills, and perseverance.
A Letter from Our CEO

This summer I attended a week long course at the Stanford University Executive Program for Nonprofit Leaders. The experience of being at the table with more than 60 fellow non-profit leaders from around the world was so inspiring. It was extraordinary to hear about the work they are doing for their communities and reigned my passion for what we accomplish at Christopher House.

Despite the uncertain funding and politics in the past few years, our mission and vision have led us through and we are seeing incredible results. Our continuum of education, personalized learning, and wraparound support to children and families is leading to success. You’ll learn about these results in the next few pages, read stories of how our staff works to make these gains; and understand the real impact Christopher House is having on our families.

Additionally, you will find the organizations and people who made these gains possible – our donor list from this past year. It’s investors like you that allow Christopher House to fulfill our mission and vision. Your support gave thousands of children and their families a chance at success last year and changed their trajectory for many years to come.

The impact Christopher House has, in partnership with children and families, goes far beyond the classroom. The social/emotional growth and resilience we instill in our scholars will carry them through success in school, work, and life. As research proves again and again, low-income, at-risk children with access to high-quality education have more successful, happier lives – which has a huge return on investment for all of us.

Gratefully,

Lori Baas
Chief Executive Officer

September 2017

“..."It was an incredible year for Christopher House. Both, students and teachers, preformed above their target and most above national norms - we are very proud and very excited to continue this work in the coming year!”

-Karen Ross-Williams,
Director of Early Childhood Education and Youth Development

---

OUR VALUES
- Commitment to Excellence
- Achievement and Perseverance
- Respect and Compassion
- Equality of Opportunity

OUR BELIEFS
- Children and families thrive when:
  - They have access to a high-quality education
  - Education begins at birth, with parents as the first teacher, and continues through life
  - Parents have high standards and set high expectations for their children and themselves
  - Professionally trained teachers use strength-based instruction and know their students as individuals
  - Parents support their children financially and emotionally
  - Evaluations and program adjustments are data driven
  - Education includes developing perseverance and social intelligence
  - Parents and teachers work together to continuously improve programs
Christopher House closes the opportunity gap through a continuum of personalized education with wraparound support starting at birth.

**Closing the Gap**

- **99%**
  - 4th grade reading national growth percentile*

- **1,540**
  - Hungry children and their families were provided emergency food

- **79%**
  - 3rd graders met or exceeded the national norm in reading*

- **80%**
  - Early childhood students prepared for kindergarten**

- **84%**
  - After School students improved their GPA or maintained a B average

- **100%**
  - on 7/10 metrics evaluated by National Association for the Education of the Young Child***

---

* NWEA Assessment Spring 2017
** Kindergarten Readiness Matrix® 2017
*** Uptown campus accreditation renewal 2017
**Family of Schools**

**INFANT & PRESCHOOL**
Internationally renowned, full-day early childhood schools serve children from six weeks to five years old. Our schools advance literacy, motor skills, positive social behavior, cognitive development, math skills, and long-term success.

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**
An innovative school model offering a continuum of education for children kindergarten through eighth grade. The school’s rigorous college prep curriculum develops critical thinkers who will succeed in high school, college, and beyond.

**AFTER SCHOOL**
Promotes academic achievement, self-confidence, and positive decision-making skills for children and youth. We offer tutoring, enrichment activities, field trips, college and career prep, and more.

**PARENT SCHOOL**
Fosters the skills parents need to raise happy, healthy children. Our Teen and Adult Parent and Prenatal School prepares parents for birth, and educates parents to be a child’s “first teacher.” The school creates a strong support system for parents with social workers, food pantries, and emergency financial assistance.

---

**Our Families**
Christopher House serves low-income children and families in Belmont Cragin, Logan Square, and Uptown.

- **70%** Early childhood families are run by single parents
- **79%** Parents working and/or in school
- **51%** Elementary students are English Language Learners
- **81%** Family caregivers have a high school diploma or less

---

"My hope for Louis* is that he follows his dreams and believes in himself. I want him to go to college and be the most respectful human being there is.”
- Parent, Christopher House, Stewart Campus

* Names changed to protect family identities.

---

**UNDER $19,000**
Average Annual Household Income
Thank You to Our Donors

July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017 Annual Fund

Classroom Circle
$50,000+
Paul M. Angell Family Foundation
Anonymous
The Boeing Company
CME Group Foundation
The Crown Family
Ellis Goodman Family Foundation
Polk Bros. Foundation
Presbytery of Chicago
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago

Mentor Circle
$5,000 - $9,999
After School Matters
Anonymous x2
Assurance Agency Ltd.
Peter and Emily Baillos
Barrington Presbyterian Women
Paul and Linda Bartman
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois
Steve and Lisa Bonner
Bridgestone Firestone Trust Fund
DLA Piper US LLP
D’Orazio Asset Management Group, LLC
Charles Douglas
Eimer Stahl LLP
First Midwest Bank
Meredith Flagstad
Jordan and Debra Hadelman
Theresa and David Haines
John Hamill
House of Vans
INTREN
Lindy and Michael Keiser
Susan and Jim King
Meltzer, Purtil & Stelle LLC
Lee and Suzanne Miller
Opus Foundation
Personnel Staffing Group
Presbyterian Church of Barrington
James and Patricia Raquet
The Honorable Bruce Rauner and Mrs. Diana Rauner
Lizzy Whitehorn & Matthew Reilein
Rooney Rippie & Ratnaswamy LLP
Brad Serlin
Cheryl and Michael Sheehan
Liz Smith
UNITED Scrap Metal, Inc.
John and Joyce Wayhart
Kimberly White
Thomas and Emily Woodrow
McGuireWoods LLP
Nathan and Lola Wright

Family Circle
$25,000 - $49,999
Robert Buono and Liz Cicchelli
Richard and Dee Dee Chesley
Anthony Chimino
Marguerite Dixen
Exelon Corporation
Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
Shiloh and Stephen Raquet
RBC Capital Markets
Stu and Tatum Reed
Starcom Worldwide

Teacher Circle
$10,000 - $24,999
All Chicago
Anonymous
Balasa Dinverno Foltz LLC
Bank of America - Illinois Foundation
William Blair
Barbara Stewart and Peter Bowe
Michael and Debbie Buck
Perry and Julie Bump
JoAnne Cicchelli and William Singer
Cubs Charities
Patrick and Anna M. Cudahy Fund
Thomas O’Neill and Ann David
Fred Eychaner
Leo S. Guthman Fund
John Harney, and family
Mary Hasten and Brien O’Brien
IMC Chicago Charitable Foundation
Jenner & Block
Kenilworth Union Church
The Lodestar Foundation
Sam and Terry Maack
Kathy and Thomas Palmer
Mr. Chad Poznansky
Prince Charitable Trusts
David Rodin
Peter and Barbara Sereda
Holly Halsted-Smirl and Rick Smirl
Russ and Pamela Strobel
Wintrust Community Banks

Advocate Circle
$2,500 - $4,999
Janell Adamess
Alan Brody
Christopher House Auxiliary
Shawn and Sang Ellis
Mia and Mark Furlong
Robin Steams and Leonard Gail Holland & Knight
Glenn Horton

Student Circle
$1,000 - $2,499
Brandon and Jill Antoniewicz
Paul and Paula Armstrong
Atomatic Mechanical Services, INC.
Myron and Pat Baas
Mr. Forrest Bailey and Mrs. Elisa Primavera-Bailey
John and Lisa Bareiss
Gwendolyn Barnes

Dean Barsness
Bennett Day School
Steven and Karen Berkowitz
James Blackburn
Jeffrey Blackburn
John and Liz Blanchard
Jason and Jessica Blomquist
Jeff Renterghem and Wendy Borg
Jim and Mimi Brault
Seth and Julia Briggs
Brown & Brown of Illinois
CNA
Bill Carr
Caroline and Randy Chandra
Kate Cicchelli
Dan Cooney and Debbie Behrman
Andrew and Carmela Corsini
Erica and Ben Davis
Dermody Properties Foundation
Deutsche Bank
Keith and Lisa Dobrolinsky
Tom and Debbie Errath
Barack Ferrazzano
Fitch Ratings
Adjustable Forms
Andrew and Jennifer Friedman
Anne and David Gezon
Sally Gillan
John and Julie Goodman
Richard and Jacquelyn Gould
Matthew Gray
Cynthia and John Grazian
James Hardie Building
Products Inc.
Donald and Lois Hartung
Health & Medicine Policy Research Group

It is our pleasure to recognize the generosity of all the institutions and individuals that make our work possible.
Thank You to Our Donors

July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

**Student Circle**

$1,000 - $2,499 (Cont.)

- Diane Heller
- Sally and Tom Hilgendorf
- Andrew and Laurie Hochberg
- Michael and Sarah Jacobs
- Janene and Joe Jonas
- Michael and Dana Kanovitz
- Frederick Kaplan
- Earl Perlow and Grant Kaufman
- James and Julie Keane
- Thomas and Kay Kelly
- Daniel and Lisa Klaras
- Peter Kunz
- Charles H. Kurtz
- Marta and Pat Landrosh
- Angela Lockhart
- Yvonne Lozano
- Lynn and Mike Lullo
- Mike Maali
- Gene and Barbara Mackevich
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert Marcocchio
- Maria Lourdes Massanet
- Anina McCarron
- Laura D. Miller
- Michael and Lori Mulhern
- Mr. Matt and Mrs. Lindsey Murphy
- Christopher Nadeau
- David Neighbours
- Brian Nix
- Kevin Noonan
- Novas, Dohr and Coll OB/GYN Associates
- The Honorable Barack Obama and Mrs. Michelle Obama
- Allyson Paflas

$500 - $999

- ADP Automatic Data Processing
- Stacia and Mark Albiston
- Sarah Alshouse
- James Althoff
- Anonymous
- Apple Inc.
- AXA Foundation
- John and Linda Baker
- Mitch Basson
- Vienna Beef
- Andrew Bennett
- Marcelo Presser and Shari Berland
- Patricia Bidwill
- Lisa Bradford
- Traci Braun
- Peter and Linda Brennan
- Stephen Bueche
- Marlene Butler
- David Calzaretta
- Robert Campbell
- Shea Caruthers
- Robert and Elizabeth Churchill
- Robert and Barb Churney
- Carter Culver
- Thomas and Julie Danilek
- Bruce and Laurie Davidson
- John DeBlasio
- Leslie Delany
- John and Katherine DiMare
- Elizabeth and John Dischner
- Nikki Drevich
- RuthAnn and Robert Dufkis
- Amber Dushman
- Charles and Connie Falcone
- Thomas Ferguson
- First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights
- Anthony and Jennifer Fout
- Jeff Friedrich
- Lawrence Gilroy
- William and December Gladden
- David Gotsch
- Leanne Gulden
- William and Christine Guthrie
- Steven and Pamela Handmaker
- Ryan and Kim Harding
- John Mitchell and Sara Hays
- Adam and Janet Heiman
- Neil Hirsch
- Illinois Sports Facilities Authority
- Jill Javors
- Nick and Beth Josephs
- Tim Jackson and James Keane
- Heather Khalaf
- Craig and Maureen Kirby
- Ken Kirk
- Merry Beth and James Kovalczyk
- Gregory Kulis
- Ladies of the Chicago Northshore Elks
- Steve and Dorothy Larrick
- Jessica and Adam LeFebvre
- Ms. Mary Williams and Mr. Mike Lenehan
- Larry and Carol Levy
- Lauren Long
- Pat Makeever
- John and Patti Mannebach
- Ms. Marissa Martin
- Stacy McAuliffe
- Dave J. Meyer
- Laurence Msall
- Kurt Murray
- Liberty Mutual
- Sheila and James Naylor
- Kathryn and Matthew Neenan
- Betsy Weitzman and Doug Nelson
- Dr. Jeanne Novas-Busano
- Oakley Stevens
- The Honorable Sheila O’Brien
- Dimas Ocampo

Clark the Cub at our 27th Annual Benefit at the Four Seasons in April 2017.

Stu Reed, Christopher House Board Member, and wife Tatum at the Four Seasons for our 27th Annual Benefit.
Collaboration is crucial to Christopher House’s ability to help our children and families succeed. Teachers work with other teachers, parents, and organizations in the Chicago Benchmarking Collaboration — all to track success and increase impact, so each family can reach their goals.

In Christopher House classrooms, teachers believe parents are the child’s first teacher and give them the tools and education to continue their children’s learning at home. Additionally, teachers communicate with each other. Lauren Harrington, Emergent Learning Coordinator and Kindergarten Teacher, said on the collaboration, “Kinder teachers and Early Childhood teachers take turns observing one another and then meet afterward to discuss strengths, areas for support, and ways to bring consistency and fluidity between programs.”

Outside our classrooms, the Chicago Benchmarking Collaborative (CBC) allows seven agencies to share practices to provide the best services for the nearly 12,000 people served by the organizations.

With Christopher House as project manager, the CBC meets throughout the year to track indicators and outcomes set at the start of the year. This joint collaboration allows agencies to compare approaches and results. Having “apples to apples” comparisons gives teachers and administrators the ability to make data-informed decisions on how to best increase the member agencies’ ability to positively impact the lives of those served.

All of these methods of working together lead to better practices and better results for our children and families in need.

The Chicago Benchmarking Collaborative is an alliance of seven education and human service agencies whose mission is to drive meaningful and tangible change for Chicago’s at-risk populations. Learn more at christopherhouse.org/cbc.
We could not be happier having the Holland & Knight Chicago office partner with Christopher House to share their time, talents, and resources! Aside from donating countless hours of pro bono legal work, the team volunteers, tutors, mentors, and supports drives throughout the year giving school supplies, books, and diapers.

This past year, Holland & Knight asked how to be even more involved. “Christopher House’s mission speaks to all of us at Holland & Knight, because we are committed to leveling the academic playing field for at-risk children, and ensuring they have access to the same high-quality academic resources that we all enjoyed as lawyers,” said Partner, and member of Christopher House Board of Directors, Tom Woodrow.

Understanding that mentoring and tutoring would be one of the most direct ways they could impact our scholars, lawyers from Holland & Knight and Christopher House staff established a program. They meet twice a month with students to work on reading and math skills. Tom said on the experience, “Ironically, we as mentors learned as much from the scholars as they did from us!”

In addition to being positive role models for our scholars, the office hosted a fundraiser for the spring Read-A-Thon collecting over 150 books and $1,000, and this August collected over $2,500 in back to school supplies!

A big thanks to Holland and Knight for your involvement, your support, and for being such a committed investor in Christopher House children and families!

“Christopher House’s mission speaks to all of us at Holland & Knight, because we are committed to leveling the academic playing field for at-risk children, and ensuring they have access to the same high-quality academic resources that we all enjoyed as lawyers.”

– Tom Woodrow, Partner, Holland & Knight, Member Christopher House Board of Directors
Thank You to Our Donors

July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

$500 - $999 (Cont.)
Caroline O’Connor
Maura and Paul O’Connor
Karen Otto
Aaron and Kelli Pauker
Mary Pearce
Kevin and Heather Phillips
Diane and Don Poljak
Robert and Judi Pottle
Bruce Rabik
Peter and Bonnie Raquet
James and (Kim Reddington
Martha Roberts
Tom and Vicki Rosenbluth
Sheila Ruder
John Rutledge
Francesa Santori
Lisa Sauer
Barbara Deal and Burt Schell
David and Patty Schulte
Perry Siatis
Cameron and Erica Smith
Byron and Angie Smith
Keith Solomon
JoAnn and Frank Stanhope
Sara and James Staniszewski
Troy and Pat Stanton
Robert Steinberg
Lowell Steward
Kevin and Hope Stipe
Mr. John and Mrs. Lisa Storto
Diane Svanson
Thompson Nashville
Jonathan Trapp
Paul and Dana Utigard
Ramon Villapando
Jennifer and John Vojticek
Keith Wagner
Leonard and Mary Anne Wall
Colleen Washburn
Jim and Nancy Weber
Mrs. Traci and Mr. Ron Weber
Julie Womack
Shep and Sally Young

Please see christopherhouse.org for the full donor listing!

Become an Investor in Success Today

Each gift has the opportunity to create a profound impact on the thousands of children and their families that Christopher House partners with annually.

Here are some of the ways you can give:

DONATE ONLINE • DONATE BY MAIL • BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR
DONATE DIAPERS • INCLUDE CHRISTOPHER HOUSE IN YOUR WILL
MAKE CHRISTOPHER HOUSE YOUR IRA BENEFICIARY • SEND GIFTS OF STOCK

For more information, please contact our Associate Director of Individual Giving, Kathy Greenberg at kgreenberg@christopherhouse.org or at 773-922-7584.

Diapers to Diplomas

You can help our littlest learners reach their full potential by joining Diapers to Diplomas to provide essentials for our 120 infants and toddlers.

We are in need of:

• Diapers - sizes 2-5
• Pull-Ups - sizes 2T-5T
• Baby Wipes
• Enfamil Formula

How can you help?

• Donate these items today! Bring to our James & Jean Stewart Campus or our Logan Square Center.
• Throw a baby shower or host a diaper drive!
• Sponsor a child. For less than a dollar a day, you can ensure a child has clean diapers while in school.

Visit christopherhouse.org/d2d and sign up today!
Get Involved

Join us for one of our events throughout the year! There are many ways to be a part of our work and directly impact children and families in need.

Here are just a few upcoming opportunities!

**HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE**
**FAMILY TO FAMILY**
November & December

Holidays are a time of family, food, and generosity. Help our families enjoy a special day of hope. Collect fresh food for special Thanksgiving meals or be paired with a family - or multiple families - to help give families in need a joyful holiday season.

Visit christopherhouse.org for more information and to sign up for Family-to-Family this fall!

**READ-A-THON 2018**
February & March

Join us to celebrate the love of reading with our scholars! The Read-A-Thon opens their imagination, sparks creativity, and builds vocabulary and literacy skills. Volunteer to share your favorite childhood book, and collect donations to help create more robust classroom libraries.

Details at christopherhouse.org!

**28TH ANNUAL BENEFIT**
April 26, 2018

Save the date to join us for our largest fundraiser of the year! Last year; we honored Cubs Charities and the Bretz Family; enjoyed a performance by the Elementary Choir; and welcomed Christopher House alumnus and Northwestern University Graduate, Gilbert Juarez, as a featured speaker!

Sign up at christopherhouse.org to receive all the updates and to purchase tickets.

“I want Gabe* to learn new things. I want him to explore different cultures and diversities. I want him to challenge himself.”

-Parent, Christopher House, Uptown

* Names changed to protect family identities.
Personalized learning succeeds when teachers know their scholars and adapt to their needs. This approach is part of the education that all Christopher House scholars receive. At our Elementary School, one aspect of this is an intense and lengthy process called multi-tiered support system (MTSS) or intervention.

MTSS is a three-tiered approach to working with a scholar in need of extra support in six-week time frames: either in the classroom, in small groups, or individually. The three levels allows the school and parents to see if there are other ways a child learns that can be adapted in the classroom, outside of placing the scholar on an individualized education plan (IEP).

On average, schools only provide this extra support - if they provide it at all - to the lowest scoring 20%. Christopher House doesn’t make this cut off. “We have a lot of high risk kids who need more support,” said Shay Stein, Student Support Specialist, and the person at Christopher House Elementary School who is dedicated to implementing these strategies.

For our scholars, coming from more challenging backgrounds this extra help and guidance can lead to discovering how to manage diverse learning opportunities that can last for the remainder of their educational career, and can mean going from failing to thriving.

“This is just one of the ways we work to close the achievement gap,” said Shay. “We provide extra support for all students who need it — to level the playing field with kids who have more resources in wealthier neighborhoods.”

This process is different for every student and represents our commitment to personalizing learning for our scholars. Giving them a better chance to overcome the achievement gap and reach their full potential.

“This is one of the ways we work to close the achievement gap. We provide extra support for all students who need it — to level the playing field with kids who have more resources in wealthier neighborhoods.”

-Shay Stein, Student Support Specialist
You can help a family get on track for a better life today.

DONATE DIAPERS
Bring or send donations M-F 8am-5:30pm to our Logan Square site at 3255 W. Altgeld St. 60647 or our James & Jean Stewart Campus at 5235 W. Belden Ave. 60639

SPONSOR A CHILD BY BECOMING A MONTHLY MEMBER!
You can provide the extra push a child or parent needs to build grit, reach their goals, and break the cycle of poverty.

VISIT CHRISTOPHER HOUSE.ORG
Learn how you can join the mission to help families thrive.

If I didn’t find Christopher House I don’t know where I would be. Christopher House changed my life.

-Esther, Parent,
Early Childhood & After School